



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **WEST BASIN ISSUES STATEMENT FOLLOWING MANHATTAN BEACH CITY COUNCIL VOTE TO OPPOSE PROPOSED DESALINATION PROJECT**

**MANHATTAN BEACH, Calif.** – Following the Feb. 16 Manhattan Beach City Council Meeting in which the Council voted to sign an opposition letter for [West Basin Municipal Water District's](#) (West Basin) proposed ocean water desalination project, West Basin General Manager Rich Nagel issued the following statement:

*"It's unfortunate that the Manhattan Beach City Council took a position without hearing the facts and findings from our Ocean Water Desalination Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which is currently being drafted. While we appreciate Mayor Burton's and the City Council's interest in West Basin's proposed project, we believe it is too soon to make a decision. The EIR is a necessary step for us to evaluate potential impacts of a proposed facility and we have offered to brief the City on our findings this summer.*

*We would like to emphasize that the West Basin Board has not made a decision to build a facility yet. We would also like to correct inaccurate information that was provided in the Nov. 23 and Feb. 16 opposition letters from the City. The referenced Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP), planned by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California, could produce up to 21,000 acre-feet and would help reduce the Central Basin area's reliance on imported water, but not the West Basin area or the City of Manhattan Beach directly. It is important to note that West Basin has been providing similar quality of potable reuse to inject into the West Coast seawater intrusion barrier since 1995.*

*We continue to maximize our water recycling and conservation programs. At the same time, in addition to expanding water recycling for non-potable use, West Basin needs to explore future drinking water supplies, such as ocean water desalination, to offset the need for importing drinking water. This is a part of West Basin's Water Reliability Program to increase water recycling, increase conservation and add ocean water desalination to a diverse water supply portfolio, a program in which the Manhattan Beach City Council signed a resolution of support in April 2010.*

*Over the years we've partnered with the City on multiple water projects including recycling and conservation, in addition to working closely with the City's residents, businesses and community organizations to promote water education and drought awareness. As a public water agency who values the collaborative efforts of its customer agencies, residents, businesses, and elected officials, including those in the City of Manhattan Beach, West Basin has also offered the Council multiple opportunities to be briefed about California's water supply issues and our ocean water desalination program. The offer still stands.*

*We'd like to continue future collaborative efforts and partner with the City to conduct a workshop to discuss options such as water recycling, conservation, ocean water desalination and the future concept of direct potable reuse.*

*In the meantime, we encourage our communities to get involved and learn more about our ocean water desalination program by attending a free community briefing or tour, or by submitting comments through the EIR process. More information can be found at [www.westbasin.org/desal](http://www.westbasin.org/desal)."*

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**About West Basin Municipal Water District**

*West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) is a wholesale water agency that provides imported drinking water to nearly one million people in 17 cities and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. West Basin is an industry leader in water recycling, conservation, and water education. West Basin is currently implementing a Water Reliability program to reduce the agency's dependence on imported water and develop drought-proof local water supplies. The program includes water recycling, water conservation, groundwater desalting and ocean water desalination. Visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) to learn more.*

**About West Basin's Ocean Water Desalination Program**

*Since 2002, West Basin has been researching responsible ocean water desalination in a manner that protects marine life, maximizes energy efficiency and minimizes cost. West Basin is currently conducting an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that will assess the potential environmental impacts of implementing a proposed ocean water desalination facility producing 20 and 60 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water. For more information about West Basin's Ocean Water Desalination program, visit [www.westbasin.org/desal](http://www.westbasin.org/desal).*